

Bessie Bitt Barron Description of
Margaret Eaton School Slides
First shown in 1975

Taping in 1993

Transcribed by:

John Byl

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SIDE 1

Byl: Testing 1,2,3.

Byl: I don't have her name down at all.

Pitt:I know you don't, cause I looked it up.

Byl: Is that her married name then or is that her...

Pitt:That's, I don't know.

Byl: Let me take a look at that for a minute, I'll go here.

Pitt:but, it may give her address.

Byl: I'll go by last names here for a minute.

Pitt:I'm sure you haven't got it cause I looked that one up
carefully.

Byl: No I don't. No' that's right.

Pitt:I don't think that should be there.

Byl: Tanamakoon?

Pitt:Margaret Eaton.

Byl: No, where was the picture?

Pitt:That's Dorothy Black, that's Do Alger, Dorothy Black is in a
home in St. Thomas, and Do Alger, I don't know where she is
right now. She went to France and married a Frenchman. She
lived in Stirling, You've got her name in I think. That
could be a girl by the name of Jones.

Byl: I wonder if it says on the back. No.

Pitt:I don't think that man is alive. Who is she on the end?

Could be Kay (Katharine) Aitken. Kay Aitken was a niece of

Lord Beaverbrooks.

Byl: The last time I was here I thought I should have taken my tape recorder, so is it OK if I just have the tape recorder running.

Pitt: Oh I don't care.

Byl: Then it makes it a little easier to remember things.

Pitt: Yah it sure does. Are you in a hurry.

Byl: No I'm not in a hurry.

Pitt: Do you want to look at these, I've forgotten what they are, did you take the sheet?

Byl: Oh, I forgot to take the sheet.

Pitt: I've got a lovely picture of Norine Johnson in there.

Byl: Do you have a projector.

Pitt: Yes, doesn't have a screen, but can shine it on the wall.

[Byl goes to get the projector. Talking in the background that I can't make out. Looking for the projector. Setting up the projector. Shining it on the wall. Trying to find a place to set the projector on. Plugging it in. Talk about a painting she just finished. Talk about the weather.]

Byl: That is a good shot.

Pitt: But it is not the first, you need to go back.

Byl: There we go.

Pitt: There, that's the first one. We strive for the good and the

beautiful, they are cleaning the front door. Isn't that nice, look?

Byl: Oh the thing goes by itself.

Pitt: There is Mary Shirton, isn't that good.

Byl: Oh, good shot.

pitt Isn't that nice.

Byl: A beautiful sunset.

Byl: Mary Louis?? It has it's own timer.

Byl: There's the school.

Pitt: It doesn't show up on that wall too good.

Byl: Too bad they had to knock the building down.

Pitt: That's Emma Scott Nasmith. You have her as Scott

(something) but, it's really Nasmith.

Byl: Right. She was Scott Raff. She first was married to Raff,

Pitt: That's the studio, you had to go in there for drama classes.

That's just by her office.

Byl: A luxurious studio.

Pitt: Isn't it though. And that is one of the plays. Helen

Parsons is around in there. Helen is gone now isn't she.

She died I think. That is Sir John Eaton. Do you not have a picture of him.

Byl: No I don't have a picture of him.

Pitt: And that's Lady Eaton when she was eighty. Eighty or

Ninety, I don't know which.

Byl: I've seen this picture before.

Pitt: Look at the bouquet of roses.

Byl: Yes, beautiful

Pitt:Ninety roses. I don't like her hair there. That's R.Y.

Eaton, Margaret Eaton's father. Colonel Margaret Eaton's father. He loved to camp and he always had four helpings of stew. That is John David whose wife just recently died. Up near Collingwood area. That's Louise Burns. These are seniors when I was there. That's Beverly Millichamp. I think her name is Nelles. That's Miss Langtree, who always wore a hat in classes. English, there she is see. She had a dog called Simon, and it was a little white Scotty, and it ate the legs of the table, where she was teaching. Horrors.

Byl: So the dog came to class with her?

Pitt:That's Happy Meyers, and I think that is Dorothy Conacher, Lionel Conacher's wife.

Byl: Oh, ok.

Pitt:She was a Kennedy. That is Dorothy again. Dorothy Black. This is I think on Colonel Beacon's Field, down crescent road.

Byl: When the Conacher's got married did that create a bit of a stir.

Pitt:That's Do Alger. She went to live in France. I think she was somewhere in France all during the war.

Byl: Did the Conacher's marriage cause a bit of a stir?

Pitt:Oh yes. That's Jessie McFarlane (on the right), she's not alive now. She lived in Tillsonburg. And her name was something else as well.

Byl: When the Conacher's got married...

Pitt: That's Lionel Conacher and they had an open Ford without a top. Touring Ford, a Model T, and they called it Tiz cause Tiz was the remedy for tired feet. And their mother didn't like them eloping, which they did. They made her go to school and get her degree.

Byl: After the Margaret Eaton school?

Pitt: After she graduated, while he was playing Hockey. I used to, when I was in Philadelphia, I used to go over to meet Billy Urch, captain of the New York Rangers and he was married to my home town friend, her name was Arnolds and she was married to Billy Urch. And then Dorothy Kennedy, Conacher, she was married to Lionel Conacher, and we called him Con. And I used to go over there to a hockey game, in the days when they used to clap for goals, not yell. We were the only ones who were making the noise in the Madison Square Gardens. They were very polite there, all except us.

Byl: You were the rowdy Canadians.

Pitt: Yes, the noisy Canadians. It was funny going with the wives of the two captains of the opposing teams. So we had great fun. Now that is a girl, Madeline Grace. She was a literature and expression girl. She had red, red hair and she did very well in dramatics, but I think she died of cancer or something very strange.

Byl: What is she holding actually?

Pitt: A deflated basketball.

Byl: Alright.

Pitt: It could be a soccer ball. Now here we are, this is Scott Raff's daughter,...

Byl: Oh, Dorothy.

Pitt: Dorothy and she was an expressions, we called them expressions students, literature and expression. That's Theo.

Byl: Is Dorothy still alive?

Pitt: I haven't any idea. That's Kay Aitken. I don't remember the end girl. That's Lord Arthur..

Byl: Whoops, Sorry.

Pitt: Oh, this is on the roof of our residence on 29th and Donnel street. That's Margaret (Gurd?) (second in) and that's me, and that's Winnifred Williams. She unfortunately committed suicide, an unhappy marriage, she laid down on the railroad tracks. This is a girl up in Perth, she was a great golfer. Katey somebody. And this is Agnes Moffat, with the doctor.

Byl: Yup, I phoned her.

Pitt: and this is something ending with Worthy

Byl: Leila?

Pitt: Leila Worthy. And that's Esther Smith, she came from Collingwood. This is the girl who had the unfortunate ending that I spoke of. This is Dorothy Black, Doe Alger, Bobby Haun from Dunnville, and Mary McNeely, she's from Perth. They were expressions students. This is Jessie

McFarlane in a long bathing suit and roll stockings. Isn't that something? This would have been fun at the reunion wouldn't it?

Byl: Yes it would have been.

Pitt: This is a picnic down in Scarborough with the Juniors.

That's our chaperon, somebodies mother. that is Edith Mackenzie whom I met over seas and got billeted with her in London.

Byl: Oh nice.

Pitt: Her sister was there too, and every time Doodlebug would drop a bomb, you see, there were two beds and we would go in between the beds and then we would come out and finish our coffee, and when we heard a bang, cause we knew when the curtains blew in straight then it was over. You were saved. That's Edith Mackenzie, I can't see who that is. that's Margaret Brown in Collingwood (third from the right). I forget her name. That's Jessie McFarlane (in the middle on the bottom), and that's Jean Gibson, and her name was Miller, her name was Brown, her name was Alger, and Kay Aitken, and Mary Barker, see her dark hair.

SIDE 2

Byl: They went in an airplane.

Pitt: And they left in an airplane for their honeymoon, I'm sure.

Byl: Or something.

Pitt:Ultra ultra--and that's Barren, I'm in the back, the stern,
Fran White and...

Byl: And Mary Barker.

Pitt:Mary Barker--oh that's Neils Bukh, you know the Danish
gymnast.

Byl: oh, ok.

Pitt:who brought all the team over, that's the school I went to
in Denmark.

Byl: oh, ok.

Pitt:I was about the first Canadian, I think there was one more
ahead of me I don't know.

Byl: And this change in gymnastics, was there just more rhythm.

Pitt:And they were all graduates of physical education, there
were thirty two in the group and they were all from
universities in the states, all but me and I was from the
MES and they didn't know what it was, and it didn't matter,
I went anyway, Dave McKenzie got me in I think.

Byl: Did you like the Danish gymnastics better.

Pitt:Oh, I loved it, I think it is the best gym they ever have.

It's smooth, it's rhythmical and you go from one exercise to
the other. And when you're doing one exercise, he gives you
the next one and you can swing from one exercise to another
and you don't stop once in the whole program and there were
about 100 exercises. And he just starts with neck rolling
and so on and he covers the whole body without stopping
once. And he stands up in the balcony and he leads it just



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